

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY:IO/UNESCO:FJGALANTO

APPROVED BY:IO:MMCNAULL

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O 131501Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS STATE 110803

NESCO

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE WASHDC FM PARIS

DTG O 091910Z MAY 75

QUOTE UNCLAS PARIS 11816

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, PORG, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: UNESCO 97 EXBD: TEXT OF US BOARD MEMBER ON
UNESCO AND ISRAEL

1. TRANSMITTED HERewith IS FULL TEXT OF BOARD MEMBER
SCHERER'S MAY 9 EXPLANATION OF US VOTES ON INVITATIONS
TO UNESCO INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS IN 1975-76
(ITEMS 4.1.1, 4.2.1, 4.3.1 AND 4.4.1 OF AGENDA).

2. UNESCO PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER HAS COPY OF
STATEMENT FOR DISTRIBUTION TO LOCALLY REPRESENTED NEWS
SERVICES. BOARD MEMBER SCHERER REQUESTS DEPARTMENT
TO PASS IMMEDIATELY TEXT OF HIS REMARKS TO: ROBERT
WEBB, WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT FOR THE CINCINNATI
ENQUIRER AT NATIONAL PRESS BLDG.

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3. FOLLOWING IS TEXT:

"I WOULD LIKE TO CLARIFY BRIEFLY, IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY
MISUNDERSTANDING, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE UNITED STATES

VOTES ON THE FOUR RESOLUTIONS ON WHICH THE COMMISSION HAS JUST VOTED APPROVING THE RECOMMENDATIONS THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL HAS MADE FOR INVITATIONS TO FORTHCOMING INTER-GOVERNMENTAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES.

THE UNITED STATES ABSTAINED ON THE SECOND RESOLUTION ADOPTED UNDER THIS ITEM IN PART BECAUSE OF ITS LACK OF INFORMATION REGARDING THE ADDITION AT THIS MEETING OF A RECOMMENDED INVITATION TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM, A MATTER ON WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO RESERVE THE US POSITION.

THE US ALSO ABSTAINED ON THIS SECOND RESOLUTION UNDER THIS ITEM AND ON THE FIRST ONE AS WELL BECAUSE OF ITS GRAVE AND WELL-KNOWN RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE ADVISABILITY OF INVITING NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS TO PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVERS IN TECHNICAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES OF THIS NATURE. WE WISH TO MAKE CLEAR THAT, IF THERE WERE TO BE VOTING, WE WOULD ABSTAIN FOR THE SAME REASON ON ALL THE RESOLUTIONS UNDER ITEMS 4.2.1, 4.3.1 AND 4.4.1, EXCEPT FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATIONS ON WHICH WE WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR. THIS DOES NOT SIGNIFY ANY CHANGE IN OUR POLICY WITH RESPECT TO SUCH GROUPS AND MOVEMENTS.

THE THIRD RESOLUTION UNDER THIS ITEM INVOLVED INVITATIONS TO A MEETING IN 1975 OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS TO DRAFT A CONVENTION ON THE RECOGNITION OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDIES AND DEGREES IN THE EUROPEAN AND ARAB COUNTRIES BORDERING ON THE MEDITERRANEAN. THE FOURTH RESOLUTION CONCERNED INVITATIONS TO AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN 1976 OF THESE STATES TO CONSIDER THIS DRAFT CONVENTION.

THE UNITED STATES VOTED AGAINST THESE TWO RESOLUTIONS BECAUSE THE LIST OF STATES INVITED DID NOT INCLUDE ISRAEL ONE OF THE STATES BORDERING ON THE MEDITERRANEAN.
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AT THE SAME TIME, THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENTATION SUPPORTING THE LIST OF RECOMMENDED INVITEES CITED A RESOLUTION ADOPTED AT THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE LAST FALL. THIS RESOLUTION AMONG OTHER THINGS RECOGNIZES AND I QUOTE, 'THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE WHEREBY EVERY MEMBER STATE HAS THE RIGHT AND DUTY TO PARTICIPATE FULLY AND REGULARLY IN THE ORGANIZATION'S REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES.' ALTHOUGH THIS REFERENCE HAS NOW BEEN WITHDRAWN BY THE SECRETARIAT, THIS BASIC PRINCIPLE IS RELEVANT AND FUNDAMENTAL. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PRINCIPLE WAS FRUSTRATED AT THE SAME GENERAL CONFERENCE WHICH ENDORSED IT WHEN THE MEMBERS OF UNESCO VOTED AGAINST AN AMENDMENT WHICH WOULD HAVE ADDED ISRAEL TO

THE LIST OF STATES WHICH MAY PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP. HAD THAT AMENDMENT BEEN APPROVED, AS THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION STRONGLY URGED, ISRAEL WOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED AMONG THE EUROPEAN INVITEES TO THESE TWO MEETINGS OF REPRESENTATIVES OF STATES BORDERING ON THE MEDITERRANEAN. WHETHER OR NOT THE RELEVANT DECISION OF THE 18TH GENERAL CONFERENCE IS CITED, THIS DECISION WILL APPEAR TO HAVE HAD A BEARING ON THE LIST OF RECOMMENDED INVITEES PROPOSED AND FOR THE SITUATION ON WHICH WE HAVE JUST CAST OUR VOTE.

THESE TWO RESOLUTIONS JUST ADOPTED TODAY AMPLY ILLUSTRATE THE ANOMALOUS SITUATION NOW EXISTING IN UNESCO, DESPITE ITS RECENT ENDORSEMENT OF FULL PARTICIPATION BY ALL MEMBER STATES. IT IS A SITUATION IN WHICH MEMBER STATES IN AN AREA OF IMMENSE CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE ARE PROCEEDING IN A VERY WORTHWHILE JOINT ENDEAVOR IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION AND ONE OF THE STATES OF THE AREA IS NOT INVITED TO BE A PARTICIPANT IN THE PROCESS WITH FULL VOTING RIGHTS.

I MUST QUITE FRANKLY STATE THAT AMERICAN INTELLECTUALS, ACADEMICIANS, SCIENTISTS, EDUCATORS, ARTISTS, WRITERS AND ALL THOSE WHO COMPRISE UNESCO'S NATURAL AND, IN NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES, MOST ACTIVE SUPPORTERS WILL NOT BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND THIS FURTHER DISCRIMINATORY DECISION TAKEN IN FLAGRANT CONTRADICTION OF THE PRINCIPLES

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PREVIOUSLY APPROVED BY THE MEMBER STATES THEMSELVES.

WE FULLY RECOGNIZE THAT PARTICIPATION OF THOSE NOT SPECIFICALLY INVITED TO THESE MEETINGS IS THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE THROUGH THE APPLICATION OF RULE 21 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE SHOULD THEY DESIRE TO ATTEND AS OBSERVERS. NEVERTHELESS, THE INCOMPLETE RE-PRESENTATION OF MEDITERRANEAN LITTORAL STATES STANDS AS AN UNHAPPY SYMBOL OF THE EXTENSION TO THIS ORGANIZATION OF POLITICAL LINES OF RUPTURE WHICH I BELIEVE ALL MEMBER STATES REPRESENTED HERE WISH TO SEE HEALED. CERTAINLY MY GOVERNMENT HAS DEVOTED -- AND WILL CONTINUE TO DEVOTE STRENUOUS EFFORTS TO THIS HEALING PROCESS.

THE US VOTES ON THESE TWO RESOLUTIONS SHOULD BE REGARDED AS A SIGNAL OF THE CONCERN FELT BOTH BY THE US GOVERNMENT AND BY UNESCO'S STRONGEST AMERICAN SUPPORTERS FOR PROVIDING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR FULL EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL UNESCO MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN RELEVANT ACTIVITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION.

OUR VOTES SHOULD ALSO BE SEEN AS AN INVITATION TO
CONSIDER THIS PROBLEM CAREFULLY AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE WHICH AFFECTS THE PURPOSES OF UNESCO. HERE I
WOULD STRESS IN PARTICULAR OUR COMMON CONSTITUTIONAL
COMMITMENT TO 'DEVELOP AND INCREASE THE MEANS OF
COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PEOPLES AND TO EMPLOY THESE MEANS
FOR THE PURPOSE OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING,' A TASK ESSENTIAL TO THE 'INTELLECTUAL AND MORAL SOLIDARITY' WHICH
IS MEANT TO BE UNESCO'S SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO PEACE.

I WOULD LIKE AT THIS TIME TO OBSERVE THAT, IN
OUR VIEW, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL HAS ACTED ENTIRELY
WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE DECISIONS OF THE LAST
GENERAL CONFERENCE IN PRESENTING THE DOCUMENTATION FOR
THIS ITEM. THE PROBLEM RELATES TO THOSE DECISIONS NOT
TO HIS IMPLEMENTATION. WE COMMEND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
FOR HIS EFFECTIVE EFFORTS TO FOCUS THE WORK OF THE
ORGANIZATION IN GENERAL, AND AT THIS BOARD MEETING IN
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PARTICULAR, ON ITS BASIC PURPOSES, AND WE URGE THAT
THE NECESSARY STEPS BE UNDERTAKEN TO SUPPORT HIM IN
ACHIEVING THEM." RUSH

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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